

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A seat reclining mechanism for a vehicle seat, comprising:
a first housing;
a second housing;
a locking means received between the first and second housings; and
a fastener for rotatably connecting the second housing to the first housing;
wherein the fastener is formed with at least one retainer portion and at least one slide portion that respectively project toward the second housing, and wherein the at least one retainer portion ~~is arranged and constructed~~ has an arcuate shape elongated in a circumferential direction of the fastener so as to increase flexural rigidity of the fastener.
2. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 1, wherein the fastener comprises a fixture portion fixed to a peripheral edge of the first housing and a guide portion rotatably supporting a peripheral edge of the second housing, and wherein the at least one retainer portion is proximally formed in the guide portion.

3. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 2, wherein the at least one retainer portion is formed by depressing the guide portion.

4. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 2, wherein the fixture portion is fixed to the peripheral edge of the first housing by crimping.

5. (Currently Amended) A seat reclining mechanism ~~as defined in claim 2~~, for a vehicle seat comprising:

a first housing;

a second housing;

a locking means received between the first and second housings; and

a fastener for rotatably connecting the second housing to the first housing;

wherein the fastener is formed with at least one arcuate retainer portion and at least one slide portion that respectively project toward the second housing, and wherein the at least one retainer portion is arranged and constructed to increase flexural rigidity of the fastener;

wherein the fastener comprises a fixture portion fixed to a peripheral edge of the first housing and a guide portion rotatably supporting a peripheral edge of the second housing, and wherein the at least one retainer portion is proximally formed in the guide portion, and

wherein the fastener comprises a transient portion interconnecting the fixture portion and the guide portion, and wherein the transient portion is formed with at least one outwardly deformed portion.

6. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 5, wherein the at least one outwardly deformed portion is radially aligned with the at least one retainer portion.
7. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one slide portion has a height greater than the at least one retainer portion.
8. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one retainer portion and the at least one slide portion respectively comprise a plurality of retainer portions and a plurality of slide portions, and wherein the retainer portions and the slide portions are alternately positioned at desired intervals along the fastener.
9. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 1, wherein the locking means comprises at least one locking member that can radially move on the first housing, the at least one locking member being arranged and constructed to engage the second housing, so as to prevent the second housing from rotating relative to the first housing, and wherein the at least one retainer portion is at least partly opposed to the locking member.
10. (Previously Presented) A seat reclining mechanism for a vehicle seat, comprising:
 - a first housing;
 - a second housing;
 - a locking means received between the first and second housings; and
 - a fastener for rotatably connecting the second housing to the first housing;

wherein the locking means comprises at least one locking member that can radially move on the first housing, the at least one locking member being arranged and constructed to engage the second housing, so as to prevent the second housing from rotating relative to the first housing; and

wherein the fastener is formed with a retainer portion and a slide portion that respectively project toward the second housing; and

wherein the retainer portion is at least partly opposed to the locking member and is arranged and constructed to increase flexural rigidity of the fastener.

11. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 10, wherein the fastener comprises a fixture portion fixed to a peripheral edge of the first housing and a guide portion rotatably supporting a peripheral edge of the second housing, and wherein the retainer portion is proximally formed in the guide portion.

12. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 11, wherein the retainer portion is formed by depressing the guide portion.

13. (Previously Presented) A seat reclining mechanism for a vehicle seat, comprising:
a first housing;
a second housing;
a locking means received between the first and second housings; and
a fastener for rotatably connecting the second housing to the first housing;

wherein the fastener is formed with a plurality of retainer portions and a plurality of slide portions that respectively project toward the second housing; and

wherein the retainer portions and the slide portions are alternately positioned at desired intervals along the fastener.

14. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 13, wherein the fastener comprises a fixture portion fixed to a peripheral edge of the first housing and a guide portion rotatably supporting a peripheral edge of the second housing, and wherein the retainer portions are proximally formed in the guide portion.

15. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 14, wherein the retainer portions are formed by depressing the guide portion.